

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 11, 12, 17, 18, and 20 through 22, and add Claim 23 to read as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus ~~employed~~ for observing an image of an object, said apparatus comprising:

an erecting ~~optical system~~ prism;

a front optical system arranged on the light incidence side of ~~the said~~ erecting ~~optical system~~ prism;

a rear optical system arranged on the light emission side of said erecting ~~optical system~~ prism;

a sensor for detecting a shake of said apparatus; and

a correction ~~optical system for suppressing a shake of an image of the object, the image being created by said front optical system, said erecting optical system, and said rear optical system, the suppression being in accordance with an output from said sensor~~ system for correcting a shake of the image due to the shake of said apparatus, by using (a) an output from said sensor and (b) a shake correction optical system in said front optical system,

wherein said front optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, and said rear optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, ~~and~~

wherein the number of the lens elements of said rear optical system is greater than that of the lens elements of said front optical system, and

wherein said shake correction optical system is arranged between (a) said erecting prism and (b) the closest one to the side of said object among said plurality of lens elements of said front optical system.

12. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said shake correction optical system ~~includes a shake correction optical element, and said front optical system includes said shake correction optical element~~ is provided with a movable transparent optical member.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein each of said front optical system and said rear optical system comprises a composite lens.

17. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus ~~employed~~ for observing an image of an object, said apparatus comprising:
an erecting ~~optical system~~ prism;

a front optical system arranged on the light incidence side of said erecting optical system prism;

a rear optical system arranged on the light emission side of said erecting optical system prism;

a sensor, arranged in a body of said apparatus, for detecting a shake of said apparatus;

~~a correction optical system for suppressing a shake of an image of the object, the image being created by said front optical system, said erecting optical system, and said rear optical system~~ a control circuit electronically connected to said sensor, for receiving an output from said sensor;

~~an actuator for driving said correction optical system~~ electrically connected to said control circuit, the driving of said actuator being controlled in accordance with an output from said control circuit, responsive to an output from said sensor; and

~~a control circuit electrically connected to said sensor and said actuator, which controls said actuator in accordance with an output from said sensor~~ shake correction optical element in said front optical system, said shake correction optical element being connected to said actuator,

wherein said front optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, and said rear optical system includes a plurality of lens elements, ~~and~~

wherein the number of the lens elements of said rear optical system is greater than that of the lens elements of said front optical system, and

wherein said shake correction optical element is arranged between (a) said erecting prism and (b) the closest one to the side of the object among said plurality of lens elements of said front optical system.

18. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said shake correction optical ~~system includes a shake correction optical~~ element, and said front optical system includes said shake correction optical element element is a variable angle prism.

19. (Previously Presented) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein each of said front optical system and said rear optical system comprises a composite lens.

20. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus ~~employed~~ for observing an image of an object, said apparatus comprising:

a front optical system having a plurality of optical elements, said front optical system being arranged on the light incidence side of an erecting ~~optical system~~ prism;

a rear optical system having a plurality of optical elements, said rear optical system being arranged on the light emission side of the erecting ~~optical system~~ prism; and

a sensor for detecting a shake of said apparatus,

wherein the closest one to the erecting ~~optical system~~ prism, among said plurality of optical elements of said front optical system, suppresses a shake of an image of the object, the image being created by said front optical system, the erecting ~~optical system~~ prism, and said rear optical system, the suppression being in accordance with an output from said sensor, and

wherein the number of the optical elements of said rear optical system is greater than that of the optical elements of said front optical system.

21. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the closest one to the erecting ~~optical system~~ prism, among said plurality of optical elements of said front optical system, has two rotational axes.

22. (Currently Amended) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the closest one to the erecting ~~optical system~~ prism, among said plurality of optical elements of said front optical system, is a variable angle prism.

23. (New) An observation optical apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said movable transparent optical member is a variable angle prism.